

Appl. No. 10/830,079
Amendment dated: May 13, 2005
Reply to OA of: January 24, 2005

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 5-11, 14, 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have made every effort to place the application in early condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly define the invention taking into consideration the outstanding Official Action. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 5 thereby making claim 4 allowable. Applicants most respectfully submit that all the claims now present in the application are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112 and are clearly patentable over the references of record.

The objection of claims 6-11 because of formalities has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed. Applicants have canceled claim 5 and amended claim 6 as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brenner and Huber has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed in view of the amendment to claim 4 incorporating the limitation of allowable claim 5 which has not been anticipated by either reference. Accordingly, these rejections are believed to be obviated by the amendment to claim 4 and withdrawal of same is most respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 4, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Heiler et al. has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed in view of the amendment to claim 4 making claim 4 allowable and since claims 12 and 15 depend from claim 4 they are allowed for the same reasons. Accordingly, it is most respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

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The rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Heiler et al. in view of Hashimoto et al. has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed. Claim 13 is dependent upon claim 12 which is allowable because it depends from claim 4. Therefore, claim 13 is also allowable and withdrawal of this rejection is most respectfully requested.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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